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REGION I
OFFICE OF REGIONAL COUNSEL



SEMS DocID 644650

February 2, 1983

Mr. Joel G. Blumstein
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Regional Counsel
JFK Federal Building, Room 2203
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

Superfund Records Center
SITE: Picillo
BREAK: 11-4
OTHER: 644650

Re: Picillo Waste Disposal Site, Coventry, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Blumstein:

This letter is in response to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) letter dated January 20, 1983 to Richard J. Mahoney, President, Monsanto Company. That letter stated that EPA believes that Monsanto may be a potentially responsible party with respect to the Picillo Waste Disposal Site in Coventry, Rhode Island. It also stated that if Monsanto wishes to pursue a negotiated resolution of EPA's allegation of liability under CERCLA or other laws with respect to this site, we should notify EPA, in writing, no later than February 5, 1983.

As was stated in my letter to you dated October 12, 1982 and again by Mr. Francis E. Kearney in his telephone conversation with you on January 26, 1983, Monsanto policy is to be cooperative with EPA in its investigation of Superfund sites. As such, we would pursue reasonable negotiations of any alleged liability under CERCLA or other laws. However, Monsanto did not send any waste material to the Picillo site. Consequently, we have no reason to believe that we are a potentially responsible party with respect to this site. Resolution of this matter would be greatly enhanced if EPA would timely provide us with the information that you possess which has led EPA to believe we may be a potentially responsible party.

Mr. Kearney told me that during his telephone conversation with you on January 26, 1983 you indicated that EPA planned to hold a meeting in late February with the parties which EPA believes may be responsible regarding the Picillo Waste Disposal Site. We understand that this may be a joint meeting including the U. S. EPA and the State of Rhode Island. We strongly support a joint meeting and urge you to pursue this course of action. We have been involved in discussions regarding the Picillo site with Mr. Daniel J. Schatz

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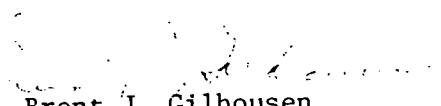
of the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General and a meeting previously scheduled by Mr. Schatz for January 31, 1983 was cancelled, presumably to be combined with your proposed meeting.

In line with our policy to cooperate in these matters, we would plan to attend this meeting if given adequate advance notification. In addition, if the meeting is to produce fruitful results, again we state we must be provided information which leads you to believe we may be a potentially responsible party.

Your letter also stated that if we wish to obtain from EPA a list of the other parties who EPA believes may be responsible, we should submit a written request. We so request.

We look forward to your response. Should you have any questions or desire to discuss the matters addressed herein, please call me at (314) 694-8504.

Sincerely,


Brent J. Gilhousen
Assistant Environmental Counsel

BJG:jea

cc: F. E. Kearney

Daniel J. Schatz,
Rhode Island Department of
Attorney General